

**THE  
SHORTER  
CATECHISM**

**BISHOP THEOPHILUS**

THE  
SHORTER CATECHISM

OF THE

EASTERN  
ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH

THIRD EDITION

REVISED AND COMPLETED

BY

BISHOP THEOPHILUS

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*With the Blessing of Metropolitan Platon  
Archbishop of All America  
Examined and approved—✠ ARSENY, Bishop of Canada,  
April 15, 1930. Chicago, Illinois.*

*"Give me understanding, that I may learn  
thy commandments." (Psalm 119:73)*

**PRAYER TO GOD THE HOLY GHOST:**

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasure of blessings and the Giver of life, come and make Thine abode in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save, O Good one, our souls.

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## INTRODUCTION

*Question.* What learning is most needful for all men?

*Answer.* Christian learning, or knowledge of the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Q.* Why is the teaching of our Lord so necessary for us?

*A.* Because it leads us to God, to everlasting salvation, or, in other words, to everlasting happiness.

*Q.* Who is God and how can we find our happiness in Him?

*A.* God is a Spirit (John 4: 24), all-perfect and all-holy, all-good and all-merciful, who knows and sees everything, can do everything and can give us all we need, if we come to him with our prayers: "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," said the Lord (Mat. 11: 28).

*Q.* Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

*A.* The Lord Jesus Christ is God, second Person of the Holy Trinity, who came down on earth as a man, to teach and to save mankind and the world.

*Q.* How can we come near to God?

*A.* By thought, wish, and deed.

*Q.* Who draws near to God by thought?

*A.* He who rightly believes in Him.

*Q.* Who draws near to God by wish?

*A.* He who prays to Him.

*Q.* Who draws near to God by deed?

*A.* He who walks after God's will and law.

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